



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 September 2007

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The New York Times and Reuters reported that explosions targeting several Mexican natural gas pipelines hit the state of Veracruz on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. (See item [2](#))
- Fox News cited a Congressional report finding that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) lacks the capability to prevent a human carrier of a biological agent from entering or leaving the United States. The report followed the controversial case in which a U.S. citizen diagnosed with a form of Tuberculosis (TB) was permitted to travel to Europe. (See item [29](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

## Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: **ELEVATED**,  
Cyber: **ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 10, AP* – **Key OPEC members favor steady production.** Global oil markets are amply supplied with crude, key OPEC nations said Monday, signaling that the cartel was leaning toward maintaining its current output targets even as some members favor a modest increase. Oil ministers for Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria and Venezuela told reporters on the eve of Tuesday's meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries that the 12-nation group felt little pressure to boost its official production quota of 25.8 million barrels a day. Iran's acting oil minister believes there is an adequate supply of crude available. But there were signs that small Gulf States were pressing for at least a modest boost in output, if only to calm jittery oil markets. The chief analyst for Vienna's PVM Oil Associates told The

Associated Press there was speculation of a possible move afoot to raise output by around 500,000 barrels per day. Light, sweet crude for October delivery lost 60 cents to \$76.10 a barrel in morning trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/10/AR2007091000461.html>

2. *September 10, The New York Times, Reuters* – **Explosions hit several gas pipelines in Mexico.** Mexican state-owned energy company Pemex said on Monday explosions caused by sabotage hit several of its natural gas pipelines on the Gulf of Mexico. The blasts in the state of Veracruz caused four fires which were now under control, the company said, adding there were no injuries. A small leftist rebel group, the Popular Revolutionary Army, set off bombs at Pemex pipelines in July. It also claimed responsibility for a small bomb that went off at a department store in the troubled city of Oaxaca last month. Pemex said that after the blasts, villages near the ducts were evacuated.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/world/international-mexico-pipelines.html>

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## **Chemical Industry**

3. *September 10, The New York Times, Reuters* – **Dozens dead in Mexico truck crash and blast.** Dozens of people died when a trailer-truck loaded with highly flammable chemicals exploded in a road accident in northern Mexico, Mexican media reported on Monday. The blast left a crater of up to 65 feet in diameter in the road in the northern state of Coahuila, the El Universal daily said on its Web site. The paper, quoting police, said 37 people were killed when the blast erupted after the trailer-truck hit another truck. However, the civil protection agency put the death toll at 25. Some 150 people were injured. Most of the people who died, including three newspaper journalists, had rushed to the scene of the crash. The trailer-truck was carrying 25 metric tons of a derivative of the volatile ammonium nitrate chemical used for fertilizers, civil protection authorities said.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/news/news-mexico-blast.html>

4. *September 10, TODAYonline.com* – **US private equity giant Blackstone buys into China's BlueStar.** United States private equity giant Blackstone announced Monday its first foray into mainland China in a deal to buy a 20-percent stake in a major Chinese chemical firm for up to 600 million dollars. Blackstone said the purchase of the stake in China National BlueStar, a subsidiary of the state-owned China National Chemical Corporation (ChemChina), was an important step in its expansion into the booming Asian country. The transaction is subject to final regulatory approvals. The massive participation by the China Investment Company has raised the eyebrows of politicians in Washington who are fearful of Beijing's growing influence in global markets.

Source: <http://www.todayonline.com/articles/210350.asp>

5. *September 9, WLTX.com* – **Fire at South Carolina chemical plant.** Authorities say a warehouse fire at a chemical plant in Orangeburg was contained without any injuries or chemical release. The fire at Gulbrandsen Chemicals, Inc. started a little after midnight Saturday morning. Davis says there was some concern because the aluminum chloride that was

stored in the warehouse couldn't be exposed to water. The warehouse is separate from the main building. Orangeburg Emergency Management and volunteer fire services worked with the Department of Public Safety to contain the fire to the one building using dry chemicals. HAZMAT team was also called in to help with firefighters that had been exposed to the chemical.

Source: <http://www.wltx.com/sports/story.aspx?storyid=53325>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste**

6. *September 10, The Birmingham News* – **Nuclear plant projects may fall short on workers.** A request to build two modern nuclear reactors at a site in Jackson County is one of more than a dozen federal regulators expect to get in the coming months. But on the eve of the first applications arriving on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's doorstep, an NRC official said that, if the utilities do ultimately build this crop of plants, finding enough skilled workers will be a challenge. People who designed and operated the plants built in the 1960s and 1970s are retiring, and nuclear programs at universities have “not been all that robust,” according to the director of the NRC's Office of New Reactors.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/birminghamnews/index.ssf?/base/news/1189412827273670.xml&coll=2>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

7. *September 10, The Washington Post* – **Comtech unit to continue US Army GPS work.** Comtech Mobile Datacom won a three-year, \$605.1 million contract from the Army to support a satellite-based system that tracks vehicles on the battlefield. The award follows a previous contract given to the company in 1999 for the Army's Movement Tracking System. The new contract runs through July 12, 2010. Under the new contract, the company will provide equipment for MTS and satellite support services for the program office overseeing the system. MTS allows Army logistics personnel to track vehicles in the field through the use of global-position system technology. The system also features messaging capability that lets vehicle crew and logistics personnel communicate with each other. The system has been deployed around the world to support Army ground logistics operations, said the president of Comtech Mobile Datacom.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/09/AR2007090901599.html>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

8. *September 9, The Washington Post* – **Some mortgage originators skip state licensing.** In an attempt to reduce mortgage fraud, many states applied more stringent requirements to their laws by demanding that loan officers or originators undergo extensive background checks and

show proof of professional experience and training. Nevertheless, there are still many mortgage business employees who originate loans without the proper credentials. These individuals operate their own businesses by using a mortgage-lending or broker license of a branch company. In many states the law requires these businesses working in a branch operation to acquire their own license. However, in several states they are allowed to operate without the license, resulting in a plethora of mortgage scams involving unlicensed mortgage brokers. A recent example cites Apex Financial Group, which was sued by 10 states for “doing business with multiple unlicensed entities, leaving consumers unprotected.” State regulators urge customers to come forward to report mortgage fraud.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/08/AR2007090800159.html>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

9. *September 10, The Washington Post* – **Va. HOT lane project to start early next year.** The Virginia Department of Transportation announced that a five year construction project to broaden Capital Beltway will start by the beginning of next year. The project includes nine dedicated interchanges from the Beltway, three of which will provide new access points to Tysons Corner, the construction of carpool lanes through the Springfield interchange, and a reconfiguration of the Beltway's interchange with Interstate 66, allowing direct access to the high-occupancy lanes. All Beltway lanes will remain open through rush hours, with closings happening only in the evening hours, transportation officials said. The four new lanes will be free for carpools of three or more people and allow for bus service on the Beltway, which is now nonexistent because traffic jams make scheduling impossible. Other drivers will pay a toll that will fluctuate according to traffic volume, a system known as congestion pricing that supporters say ensures freedom from traffic backups. That toll is expected to cost between \$5 and \$6 on average. The project is expected to cost \$1.7 billion.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/09/AR2007090901949.html>

10. *September 10, NY Daily News* – **MTA didn't disclose dirty bomb scare: officers.** New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) officers have criticized the MTA for failing to provide proper training and timely information regarding an Al-Qaeda bomb threat in August. After the MTA was alerted that Al Qaeda terrorists were heading to New York City driving box trucks laden with nuclear-laced bombs, MTA officers were given pager-sized radiation detectors and dispatched to bridges and tunnels. The officers say that the detectors were new and that they had not received appropriate training. They claim they were also neither told the nature of the threat nor instructed as to what to do. Police said that “the lack of information and haphazard distribution of new technology are typical of an organization more interested in collecting tolls and moving traffic than in safety.” Nevertheless, an MTA spokesman said that “all proper procedures were followed and communicated, and personnel and equipment were deployed as appropriate.”

Source: [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime\\_file/2007/09/10/2007-09-10\\_mta\\_didnt\\_tell\\_us\\_of\\_dirty\\_bomb\\_scare\\_of-4.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime_file/2007/09/10/2007-09-10_mta_didnt_tell_us_of_dirty_bomb_scare_of-4.html)

11. *September 10, Boston.com* – **Pike U-turn ramp opening delayed.** The Massachusetts Turnpike Authority announced it will not open the new turnaround ramp that is expected to relieve congestion on the Pike until January when the new turnpike tolls will be enforced. Although the construction has been completed, drivers will not be able to take advantage of the new ramp until early next year. “Rather than establish a new toll months before the new increases are set to take effect in January, it was decided it would be easier for our customers to simply open the U-turn with a new toll in January,” said the Turnpike Authority spokesman. The delay has added to motorist frustration after construction took a year longer than planned. Nevertheless, both business leaders and transportation officials consider the ramp a much needed solution to congested traffic, particularly after the opening of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center on the South Boston waterfront. The last stage of the \$1.8 million project, which will benefit only taxis and buses, at least at first, is the installation of the new electronic toll system.  
Source:  
[http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/09/10/pike\\_u\\_turn\\_ramp\\_opening\\_delayed?mode=PF](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/09/10/pike_u_turn_ramp_opening_delayed?mode=PF)
12. *September 10, KJCT/ABC News* – **GJT airport to receive millions for construction.** Colorado’s Grand Junction Regional Airport is the recipient of a \$3.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grant will be used for repairs to a certain part of the air carrier apron. The airport hosts hundreds of passengers on a daily basis and is vital for the residents and tourists from the area.  
Source: [http://kjct8.com/Global/story.asp?S=7042510&nav=menu580\\_1](http://kjct8.com/Global/story.asp?S=7042510&nav=menu580_1)
13. *September 09, Boston Herald* – **Gas costs spark high-speed rail interest.** Although travelers have started to embrace trains due to high gas prices and airport delays, the railway system is not adequately equipped to offer the required services. The executive director of the nonprofit Midwest High Speed Rail Association is advocating for an increase in the railways budget for track and safety improvements. Currently, Congress is discussing a six-year Amtrak funding bill to provide \$100 million in first-year grants. Opponents voiced their arguments claiming that the funds would be better used in research of electric-powered cars and other travel alternatives. Supporters highlight the relevance of the alternative offered by high-speed trains given modern inconveniences and time delays posed by air travel. Some states have already started to make substantial investments in studies and construction for high-speed projects: Illinois made a \$80 million investment in tracks and crossing improvements, which reduced the Chicago-St. Louis ride by 90 minutes; California introduced a plan to build a 700-mile electric-powered train running at up to 220 mph from San Francisco to San Diego.  
Source:  
<http://www.bostonherald.com/business/general/view.bg?articleid=1030409&format=text>
14. *September 09, The Associated Press* – **Mexico sends 1st long-haul trucks to US.** Two Mexican tractor trailers made approved deliveries in New York and South Carolina. The deliveries were the first under the hotly contested and recently approved NAFTA-mandated program allowing Mexican trucks access to U.S. roads. Previously, according to a 1982 law, Mexican trucks were allowed to operate within a 25 mile radius of the border. According to transportation officials, 25 Mexican firms have been granted access to U.S. roads, and a total

of 100 firms will be granted the same over the next three months. The Teamsters Union filed a lawsuit to challenge the legality of the new program, but a federal appeals court ruled that the program can move forward.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iqRQHbH0k1jx92SHm9s2HrRo2S7g>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

15. *September 10, Arizona Daily Star* – **Use of electronic truck-logs urged.** Although large trucks generally have fewer accidents than cars on a per-mile basis, driver fatigue is cited as a factor in 8% of fatal accidents involving large trucks. In order to combat this, there is increasing support for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration mandating the replacement of truck drivers' paper logbooks with electronic ones. Those favoring electronic logs are safety advocates, insurance companies, some large trucking firms, the National Transportation Safety Board, and trucking regulation enforcement officers. The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association opposes them on the basis that they are no more accurate than paper and they infringe on the drivers' privacy. Mandatory implementation of electronic logbooks in new trucks has been an ongoing debate since 2000. In Europe, all new trucks must be equipped with an electronic system monitoring the drivers' hours.

Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/200486>

16. *September 10, Herald News* – **Will County takes advantage of Chicago dynamics.** The city of Chicago is a chokepoint for the shipping industry and some suburban areas, such as Will County, have developed extensive logistics industries to compete for shipping, warehousing, and transporting business. By shipping into and out of Will County as opposed to Chicago, businesses can reduce the transportation cycle by several days. This month will be the first Global Logistics Summit for Will County; previously the summits were held in Chicago.

Source:

[http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/business/545253,4\\_2\\_JO10\\_SUMMIT\\_S1\\_article](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/business/545253,4_2_JO10_SUMMIT_S1_article)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

17. *September 9, CBS News* – **New citrus disease worries Florida growers** Florida citrus growers are worried about the effects of a "citrus greening," a fatal crop disease caused by a bacteria delivered by the bite of the Asian citrus psyllid insect. The bacterium is harmless to humans, but has been deadly for the thousands of trees infected since its recent arrival in Florida. Florida's \$9 billion, nation-leading citrus industry has been suffering some of its worst harvests even before greening arrived in Florida, allegedly on infected Asian plant material. The disease gradually kills a plant's vascular system and sours fruit, making it unusable. There are no natural enemies here to the Asian citrus psyllid, and predators can't easily be introduced. Pesticides that kill the psyllid also kill beneficial insects that trim other bugs. Genetic solutions are being explored.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/09/09/national/main3244634.shtml>



18. *September 10, The Californian* – **State begins spraying.** Planes are currently in the process of spraying the Salinas Valley towns of Marina and Seaside with a pheromone that discourages the light brown apple moth from breeding. Agriculture officials fear that the moth could cause millions of dollars of damage to Monterey County's agriculture industry. The spraying has been the subject of widespread protest by residents of Marina, Seaside, Sand City, Monterey, Pacific Grove and parts of Pebble Beach who are concerned that the spraying poses a health risk. However, the chemical being used has been approved by the EPA and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. A regional spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture stated that not only is the spraying "crucial to prevent the moths from invading the rest of the nation, but is safe for the environment and people." In 10 years of applying the pheromone in the United States, no health problems in humans or animals have been reported.

Source:

<http://www.thecalifornian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070910/NEWS01/709100303>

19. *September 10, California Farmer* – **Country of Origin Labeling A Year Away...Maybe.** Five years after Congress passed the 2002 Farm Bill, which required Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) of most agricultural products, only fish are labeled. Congress has postponed implementation of COOL twice until after Sept. 30, 2008. The Undersecretary of Agriculture says that the Department "is moving forward on rulemaking and will have it implemented by Sept. 30, 2008." However, current debate of the 2007 Farm Bill could change the timeframe or the nature of COOL. The Undersecretary says there is no way to tell what might happen, so he is continuing to develop rules based on the underlying statute. Recent problems with imported food and feed have provided momentum for Country of Origin Labeling.

Source: <http://californiafarmer.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=29881&fpstid=1>

20. *September 9, Associated Press* – **Immigration enforcement debate muddies farm bill.** Consumers could see the price of fruits and vegetables double if the nation does not address a looming farm labor shortage in the wake of tightening immigration enforcement, said the House Agriculture Committee Chairman. He told producers attending the Kansas State Fair this weekend that the agriculture committee will focus on the immigration issue as it strives to do its part to make sure there is adequate labor, adding that some crops will not be harvested this year unless something is done. Farmers need a realistic guest worker program, he said.

Source: [http://www.kansascity.com/news/breaking\\_news/story/267491.html](http://www.kansascity.com/news/breaking_news/story/267491.html)

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## **Water Sector**

21. *September 10, The Olympian* – **Streams face bacteria crisis.** According to a Washington State Department of Ecology report, nine small streams have high levels of coliform bacteria, indicating that feces from humans, livestock, and wildlife have been entering them. These levels of bacteria are harmful to recreational users of the streams, as well as commercial shellfish harvesters. The source of the bacteria may be from malfunctioning septic systems, runoff from pastures, and storm water runoff from U.S. Highway 101. The Department of Transportation, the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Washington State's Wildlife and

Recreation Program have all funded initiatives to reduce the bacteria 35-99%, to acceptable levels.

Source: <http://www.theolympian.com/environment/story/213019.html>

22. *September 8, Yahoo News* – **Volunteers help monitor nation's rivers.** Trained volunteers, who monitor bodies of water for pollution, are becoming more important as the government agencies tasked with protecting them suffer from budgetary and staffing problems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has 900 nationwide monitoring groups with over 190,000 trained members. Although the volunteers do not always produce information meeting the agency's scientific standards, they are able to indicate when and where there may be problems. The volunteers also work to provide benchmarks for future monitoring.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070908/ap\\_on\\_sc/river\\_monitors;\\_ylt=ArLLhsIJ0gRQe2YOGVcoulms0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070908/ap_on_sc/river_monitors;_ylt=ArLLhsIJ0gRQe2YOGVcoulms0NUE)

23. *September 9, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – **Senators seek Great Lakes hearing.** A group of six U.S. Senators called for a special hearing regarding the declining volume of the Great Lakes. Over two years ago, a Canadian group sponsored a study of the lake level and concluded that the problems with Lakes Huron and Michigan could be attributed to erosion in the St. Clair River. Fluctuating water levels are not uncommon in the lakes, but a sustained low water level over several years is unprecedented since recordkeeping began in the 1800s. Traditionally, weather patterns have been behind the water level changes, but many scientists and public officials believe that other factors are contributing to the present situation. Warm weather and drought are blamed for the level of Lake Superior. Lakes Huron and Michigan suffer from the aforementioned erosion in the St. Clair River, dredging in the 1960s to allow oceangoing ships access, and armoring the shores of Lake Huron to prevent sediment from filling in the lake's bottom. Low water levels in the lakes affect recreational and commercial users, as well as property values.

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=659188>

24. *September 10, Green Bay Press-Gazette* – **Coalition aims to save water from Great Lakes.** The suggestion of piping Great Lakes water to drier areas in the southern part of the U.S. was recently posed by a University of Alabama at Birmingham professor. Groups such as the Wisconsin League of Conservation voters oppose the idea and are working with state and federal governments to ensure that the water from the Great Lakes is managed so that the resource is maintained. A baseline Great Lakes Water Resources Compact was signed by eight states and two provinces bordering the lakes in 2005. The states' legislatures must pass the agreement before they are sent to Congress. Ratification of the compact has encountered some problems in states like Wisconsin, where many of their major population areas lay outside of the Great Lakes Basin. The basin is defined as the area from which the water would return to the Great Lakes.

Source:

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070910/GPG0101/709100470/1207/GPGnews>

25. *September 6, Lake County News-Sun* – **Communities look into piping Lake Michigan water.**



Several communities in Illinois may request Lake Michigan water allocations from the state, due to concerns about the viability of the wells. A feasibility study has already been concluded and it is possible that the communities could receive water as soon as 2014. It remains to be seen if the mayors and board members support the plan as strongly as the public works representatives.

Source:

[http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/news/543999,5\\_1\\_WA06\\_LAKEWATER\\_S2.article](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/news/543999,5_1_WA06_LAKEWATER_S2.article)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

26. *September 10, Earth Times* –**Malaysia declared free from deadly bird flu virus.** Malaysia has been declared free from avian influenza, three months after the deadly virus was detected in poultry in a village in the central Selangor state, a minister announced Monday. In June, the H5N1 strain of bird flu was discovered after a poultry farmer from the Paya Jaras Hilir village in Selangor, near Kuala Lumpur, reported that 60 of his chickens had suddenly died over three days. Health ministry officials immediately screened villagers and conducted checks on all birds and poultry. Following three months of surveillance and laboratory tests that have not shown any traces of the virus, the country has fulfilled conditions set by the World Organization for Animal Health and has been "declared free from the disease," Malaysia's Agriculture Minister told the official Bernama news agency. Malaysia has suffered no known human infections from the virus.

Source: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/104992.html>

27. *September 10, Philly Burbs* –**Thieves stealing health care.** According to top Philadelphia health insurers, fraud investigations involving medical identity theft, while still being a small percentage of the overall fraud case load, have doubled recently. The number of Americans identifying themselves as victims in government documents nearly tripled in four years to more than a quarter-million in 2005, according to law enforcement. The Federal Trade Commission started recording medical identity theft complaints in 1992, and it has logged 19,428 complaints as of May 2006. Roughly one-quarter of the complaints — 4,500 — were filed in 2006. Based on its research, the World Privacy Forum estimates at least a half million Americans are victims and "most probably don't know it." "We feel that is an extremely conservative number," said the executive director of the Forum.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/25-09102007-1405092.html>

28. *September 10, Ithaca Journal* –**The health care workforce crisis.** An article in the Ithaca Journal points out that, according to predictions from the Bureau of Labor Statistics the U.S. will require an additional 703,000 registered nurses, 124,000 practical or vocational nurses and 962,000 direct care workers (nursing assistants, home health and personal care aides) in the decade between 2004 and 2014. The Alliance for Aging Research projects a need for 36,000 geriatricians by the year 2030, which represents an increase of more than 25,000 individuals in the field. Additionally, recent years have seen a decline in nursing school enrollees. The nursing shortage has also reduced the number of nursing faculty available to teach in nursing programs. This, in turn, limits the number of students a program can enroll. The Center for

Health Workforce Studies reported that 59 percent of nursing school applicants in New York were turned away in 2004. The shortage also leads to longer hours and a greater per nurse patient load, both factors which contribute to high levels of stress, burnout, and staff turnover. Nationwide, the number of geriatricians has decreased in the last decade, and studies have shown that physicians do not get the necessary training during residency to prepare them to care for the elderly. According to an American Medical Association compensation survey, average salaries for physicians in geriatrics, family medicine and internal medicine (those most likely to provide primary care to the elderly) are among the lowest of all the medical professions, despite the high level of demand for their services.

Source: <http://www.theithacajournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070910/OPINION02/709100312>

29. *September 9, Fox News* – **Report on TB case cites security gaps.** A congressional report has found that the Centers for Disease Control lacks a sound way to prevent someone infected with a biological agent from entering or leaving the United States. The report is a result of a congressional investigation into a case in which a US citizen was allowed to fly out from Atlanta to Europe despite having tuberculosis and warnings from public health officials. Once he was in Europe, the CDC determined that he could not be transported back to the U.S. because the agency did not have the equipment to safely do so for a flight longer than eight hours. The CDC asked the Transportation Security Administration to place the man on its "no-fly" list so he could not re-enter the country. But there was a four-hour delay between the request and the listing. The man re-entered the U.S. through Canada, despite instructions to Customs and Border Patrol officers not to allow him in.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hcZ63P6Ze9MxVnNrQIpVHC0HSfKQ>

30. *September 9, Fox News* – **Cats top dogs as rabies risk** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, while dogs pose a major risk of rabies infection worldwide, cats are much more of a threat in the U.S. Nationwide, cats accounted for 54 percent of domestic animals found with rabies in 2005, compared with dogs at 16 percent, according to the CDC. The problem lies mostly with feral cats — domestic breeds that roam wild and have no owner.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,296206,00.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

31. *September 10, Union-Tribune* – **Cleanup finished at base waste site.** Clean up of a toxic waste site at Point Loma Naval Base was recently completed. According to the installation's commander, the site, containing auto shredder residue, was much larger than expected. In the 1970s, the Navy used the material to fill a canyon and built a parking lot above it. In the winter of 2004-2005, heavy rains exposed some of the residue and washed it towards a nature preserve and the ocean. Initial estimates indicated 10,000 tons of residue, but the contractors discovered 66,000 tons.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20070910-9999-1m10waste.html>

32. *September 9, Washington Post* – **Pentagon renovates to prevent repeat.** The Pentagon has

received ongoing renovations over the six years since the terrorist attack of September, 11. Security changes have altered the building, which now has a significant police force charged with monitoring the area via closed-circuit television cameras and testing the air for traces of chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants. Shuttle busses are only allowed to use the Metrobus terminal several hundreds feet away. A complete overhaul of the building was begun in 1994 and should be completed by 2011, but many of the proposed alterations were rethought after the terrorist attacks. New features include photo-luminescent signs at ground level and an improved audio system. In addition to the renovations and improved security measures, a memorial to the 184 people who died in the terrorist attack is under construction.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/08/AR2007090801718.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

33. *September 10, The Jackson Sun* – **Radio barrier may hamper efforts of first responders.**

First responders in two Tennessee counties—Jackson and Madison—often find themselves working the same wrecks and the same crime scenes, but they can only radio each other directly in the worst emergencies. Local officials say that barrier can lead to confusion at emergencies where city and county responders are present. It could be an even bigger problem at a major disaster where agencies from throughout the region would need to coordinate their response. The federal government has set a 2013 deadline for law enforcement and other emergency response agencies to install systems that allow officers in the field to communicate directly with their counterparts in other agencies. The holdup in making the change here: a \$15 million cost for equipment and programming that local officials are asking the federal government to help them pay.

Source:

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070909/NEWS01/709090317>

34. *September 10, PRWeb* – **Teens launch website to aid in emergency response.** A 16 year old boy in North Carolina has created a concept aimed at assisting emergency personnel in the city of Statesville. The teen's plan utilizes an online photo database of houses in the city. He was inspired to begin the project in hopes that emergency services, such as first responders, would utilize the database for more effective responses. Various security measures are in place to insure the integrity of the database, and to keep the public as safe as possible. Homeowners can choose to contact the site by e-mail if they want their listing removed. The teenage volunteers of the site are referred to as the Street Team. The group is composed of various teenagers from around Iredell County, who see the site as a way to positively affect the community.

Source: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/teens/volunteer/prweb552053.htm>

35. *September 8, Brenham-Banner Press* – **Emergency responders in Texas prepare for disaster.** Local jurisdictions throughout the seven-county Brazos Valley area will participate in a regional Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Communication Interoperability Exercise Tuesday and Wednesday. The host jurisdictions will be the city of Brenham and Washington County. First responders from all seven counties will converge on the Washington County fairgrounds in response to a catastrophic event — an explosion and train derailment in

Brenham. The exercise will also test the ability of various Brazos Valley jurisdictions to communicate interoperability during response operations, organizers say. The exercise is designed to help prepare jurisdictions to manage the consequences of a WMD event with emphasis on the first 12-24 hours after a terrorist attack. The scenario includes, as a result of the train derailment, a chlorine gas leak that affects hundreds of people attending a festival in downtown Brenham.

Source: <http://www.brenhambanner.com/articles/2007/09/08/news/news02.txt>

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## **Information Technology**

36. *September 10, IDG News Service* – **Skype warns users of Windows worm.** Skype users are under attack from a new worm that spreads through the peer-to-peer Internet phone application's chat feature. The attack begins when a user receives an instant message containing a link from someone in their contact list or an unknown Skype user, said a Skype spokesman. There are several versions of the chat messages, which are “cleverly written” to fool users, he wrote on the Skype heartbeat blog. The link appears to contain a JPEG photo file which, if clicked, asks the user to save or run a “.scr” file. The file is malicious software that can then access a user's PC via Skype's API (application programming interface). The malicious file has been named W32/Ramex.A. “Users whose computers are infected with this virus will send a chat message to other Skype users asking them to click on a web link that can infect” their computers, he wrote. To avoid trouble, users should not download the file. As of early today, detailed information from anti-virus vendors was scanty. Several security companies, however, have already updated their signature definitions to detect and delete the new malware. Skype is only the latest IM client to feel the heat from hackers. Both Yahoo Messenger and Microsoft's MSN/Live Messenger have been struck this summer. Exploit code designed to hijack Windows PCs running Yahoo Messenger appeared as early as June, and Yahoo has been forced to patch the IM client several times since. Microsoft, meanwhile, has scheduled fixes for its MSN Messenger and Windows Live Messenger software for tomorrow, presumably to quash a webcam bug that was disclosed late last month.

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=009035198>

37. *September 10, IDG News Service* – **Security researcher intercepts embassy passwords from Tor.** A security researcher who collected thousands of sensitive e-mails and passwords from the embassies of countries such as Russia and India blamed systems administrators on Monday for not using encryption to shield their traffic from snooping. The 21-year-old security researcher revealed on Monday he was able to capture the information by setting up his own node in a peer-to-peer network used by the embassies to make their Internet traffic anonymous. The embassies relied on a volunteer network of servers using software called Tor (The Onion Router) to hide their Internet traffic and make it anonymous. Traffic sent through a Tor node is transmitted through a randomly selected series of other Tor nodes before exiting the network for its intended destination, so as to disguise the source and destination of the traffic. But although traffic between nodes in a Tor network is encrypted by default, traffic entering and exiting the system is not, so anyone wanting to hide not only who are they are communicating

with, but what they are saying, must apply an extra layer of encryption themselves. Embassies and companies neglected to do this, which left their information open for the researcher to collect.

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/09/10/Security-researcher-intercepts-embassy-passwords\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/09/10/Security-researcher-intercepts-embassy-passwords_1.html)

38. *September 10, Techworld* – **Criminals operating malware supermarkets.** According to Panda Software's latest quarterly report the global market for criminal malware now operates like a supermarket, complete with special offers and volume discounts. The report stated that the going rate for a sophisticated but generic Trojan is between \$350 and \$700, while the email list with which to target victims for the program costs from \$100 per million names. While Panda Software is hesitant to give out details about which sites are involved, it did say that it considered Russia, an area with poor anti-malware legislation, a prime location for the industry. Panda Software's lab chief said: "In recent months we have witnessed the growing professionalization of digital crime." The first step for cyber-crooks was when they started looking for profits from their activity instead of just notoriety. Now they are creating a vast online malware market, where there are even specialized segments. New business models are appearing, as we speak." He also noted that cyber criminals are now offering paid services in addition to products. Report available at:

<http://pandalabs.pandasecurity.com/archive/PandaLabs-Quarterly-Report.aspx>

Source: <http://www.techworld.com/security/news/index.cfm?newsid=10035&pagtype=all>

39. *September 07, Techworld* – **Spam up, PDF spam down.** Spam rates were up in August, despite the fact that PDF spam appears to have peaked. Junk email reached nearly 70 percent of all messages sent last month. According to Symantec's spam report for August, unwanted email accounted for 69 percent of all mail sent, up 3-percent from July. Spam volumes are creeping up toward the levels reached last October when image spam inflated junk mail to 73 percent of all messages sent. In August, image spam had little impact, accounting for less than 10 percent of all spam, according to Symantec. Last month also saw the dramatic rise and fall of PDF spam, email messages with a PDF attached, that usually attempted to convince the recipient to purchase stocks. First spotted by Symantec in June, PDF spam accounted for 20 percent of all spam at its peak in mid-August. Spammers quickly retreated from the technique, however, bringing its end-of-the-month level to less than one percent of all spam. Symantec's take is that spammers have backed off from sending PDF spam to tweak the technique or have decided this form of spam isn't working and have gone back to the drawing board. Officials at Sophos, another security vendor, agreed that PDF spam was more trouble than it was worth for recipients - since they had to actually open an attachment to read the message - and so spammers weren't getting the desired results.

Source:

<http://www.techworld.com/security/news/index.cfm?newsID=10017&pagtype=samechan>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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### **Communications Sector**

40. *September 10, PCWorld* – **Software Glitch Affects BlackBerry Service.** Some Blackberry users in North America experienced problems on Friday when a software issue meant that the email service shut down, leaving the handheld device's email capabilities disabled. As a result, some BlackBerry customers did not immediately receive their emails. The problem began at around 10am Friday EDT and delays continued to be experienced into Saturday morning as the message backlogs were cleared out. This is the second time BlackBerry-maker RIM (Research in Motion) has experienced a problem in its service. In April, another glitch led to millions of BlackBerry hand-held device users in the U.S. being cut off from their wireless email service for more than 10 hours. This time the problem affected only BIS (BlackBerry Internet Service users) not BES (BlackBerry Enterprise Services users). RIM said the emails were only delayed and not lost completely. Phonecall and text-messaging services were not affected. The Canadian company has not given a reason for the interruption in the service or specified a date when it would return to normal.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,137012-c,pdacellphonehybrids/article.html>

41. *September 8, Parsons Sun* – **Need for broadband in rural areas discussed.** Kansas lawmakers discussed the state's internet infrastructure at a Summit at the University of Kansas last weekend. Some said they will try to develop a picture of the state's Internet infrastructure in the next legislative session. One state legislator said he would like to see the state track where their residents lack affordable and reliable internet service as Kentucky and Tennessee have done. "Companies are then able to look at that map and say, 'There's an opportunity for us. I think that's the first step in providing broadband for all communities'" he said, adding that internet expansion important for the economic development of rural businesses in the state.

Source: <http://www.parsonssun.com/news/articles/internet090807.shtml>

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### **Commercial Facilities Sector**

42. *September 7, Reuters* – **World Trade Center site shows signs of rebirth.** According to Reuters, the World Trade Center rebuilding is on schedule. The annual September 11 commemoration will take place off site for the first time because what was a gaping hole for



the first five anniversaries is now a busy construction site where four new skyscrapers, a transit center, a museum and a memorial are going up. In addition to the Freedom Tower, due to be completed in 2012, the designs for the three other skyscrapers at the site have been refined to include taller lobbies, space for art, and exterior elevators. The last of those building is scheduled to be finished by 2013.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070907/us\\_nm/sept11\\_construction\\_dc;\\_ylt=Ao8t0OkkmLWCnrSSRQfkJI8WIr0F](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070907/us_nm/sept11_construction_dc;_ylt=Ao8t0OkkmLWCnrSSRQfkJI8WIr0F)

43. *September 7, Chicago Tribune* – **Blaze destroys section of mall.** A four-alarm fire early Saturday destroyed part of the Mega Mall indoor flea market in Logan Square, a mall that for years has embodied controversy over rapid development in the Northwest Side neighborhood. The fire, which caused no injuries, devastated several immigrant businesses inside the six-building complex, which had re-opened recently after a horde of city code violations shut it down for more than a year. The fire's cause is still under investigation, a spokesman for the Chicago Fire Department said.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/chi-mallsep09,1,7720801.story>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

44. *September 9, International Herald Tribune* – **British man found with gun in Glacier National Park gets 14-month prison sentence.** Last week, a federal judge sentenced a British man, who was found with a gun and an expired visa in Glacier National Park, to 14 months in prison. When initially apprehended, the man claimed that he did not have a gun, just a knife. Later, while he was being searched, it was discovered that he was carrying a .40 caliber pistol in his jacket.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/09/09/america/NA-GEN-US-Briton-Park-Gun.php>

45. *September 9, Wyoming Tribune-Eagle* – **Beetles endanger pines in national forest.** The majority of mature lodgepole pines in Medicine Bow National forest will be destroyed within a couple of years. The culprit is the mountain pine beetle, a small, black insect about the size of a nail head. Recent warm winters have allowed them to spread to trees in higher altitudes and drought has weakened the trees' natural defense mechanisms. Many of the trees are also at the ideal age for infestation – approximately 100 years old. As the trees die, they become threats to campers and hikers and susceptible to forest fires. The senior ranger plans a combination of spraying and salvage logging to prevent a catastrophic forest fire and to reduce the hazard of falling trees and branches.

Source: [http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2007/09/09/featured\\_story/01top\\_09-09-07.txt](http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2007/09/09/featured_story/01top_09-09-07.txt)

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## **Dams Sector**

46. *September 9, Rapid City Journal* – **State inspector says South Dakota dams are safe.** A state

official in South Dakota refuted the claim by American Rivers that several dams in South Dakota are unsafe. The engineer with the state Environment and Natural Resources Department clarified the status of South Dakota's dams, stating that the majority of the approximately 2300 dams were low-hazard. Of the 47 high-hazard dams, 11 were classified as structurally deficient, meaning that they require maintenance and more frequent inspection. The goal of American Rivers is for Congress to pass a \$200 million measure to repair or remove problematic dams.

Source:

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2007/09/09/news/top/doc46e4adfe61f2b146928239.txt>

47. *September 10, Bridgeton News* – **Nature Conservancy: Not dam.** The ownership of the Willow Grove dam in New Jersey is under debate. Cumberland and Salem County asserted that the Washington, DC based organization, the Nature Conservancy, owns the dam and is thus accountable for its repairs. Although the Nature Conservancy claims ownership of the lake, it states that the road and dam belong to the local government, thereby being their responsibility. A recent Dam and Bridge Safety Inspection Report submitted to the county found the dam unsafe due to erosion. Earlier this year, the state Department of Environmental Protection had ordered the lake drained due to a 14-by-23 foot sinkhole and stated that the dam was unsafe. If drained, the lake will return to its pre-1800s state of wetlands. All of the parties involved support a full restoration of the lake.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/bridgeton/local/index.ssf?/base/news-10/118939922858070.xml&coll=10>

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Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to <a href="mailto:NICCRports@dhs.gov">NICCRports@dhs.gov</a> or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389
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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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